In the claims:

Please amend claims 23-26 to read as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
receiving the encoded information from the content server; and
decoding the encoded information.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
prior to selecting at least one recognized audio command, weighting the at least one first
confidence value by a first weight factor and weighting the at least one second
confidence values by a second weight factor.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
prior to accessing the content server, executing at least one operation based on the at least
one recognized audio command.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
verifying the at least one recognized audio command.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
prior to accessing the content server, generating an error notification when the at least
one first confidence value and the at least one second confidence values are below
a minimum confidence level.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising:

prior to accessing a content server, generating an error notification when the at least one
terminal confidence value and the at least one network confidence value are
below a minimum confidence level.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising:
prior to selecting the at least one recognized audio command, weighting the at least one
terminal confidence value by a terminal weight factor and the at least one network
confidence value by a network weight factor.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising:
filtering the at least one recognized audio command based on the at least one recognized
audio command confidence value; and
executing an operation based on the recognized audio command having the highest
recognized audio command confidence value.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising:
verifying the at least one recognized audio command to generate a verified recognized
audio command; and
executing an operation based on the verified recognized audio command.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:
the dialog manager operably coupled to the means for receiving, wherein the means for
receiving selects the at least one recognized audio command having a recognized
confidence value from the at least one first recognized audio command and the at
least one second recognized audio command based on the at least one first
confidence value and the at least one second confidence value.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:

wherein the dialog manager retrieves encoded information in response to the dialog

manager audio command.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:

a speech synthesis engine operably coupled to the dialog manager, wherein the speech

synthesis engine receives speech encoded information from the dialog manager

and generates speech formatted information.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the audio subsystem is operably

coupled to the speech synthesis engine, wherein the audio subsystem receives the speech

formatted information and provides an output message.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein when the means for

receiving provides the dialog manager with an error notification, the output message is an error

statement.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26 further comprising:

wherein the dialog manager retrieves the encoded information from the content server in

response to the dialog manager audio command.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:

a speech synthesis engine operably coupled to the dialog manager, wherein the speech

synthesis engine receives speech encoded information from the dialog manager

and generates speech formatted information; and

a speaker operably coupled to the speech synthesis engine, wherein the speaker receives the speech formatted information and provides an output message.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for multi-level distributed speech recognition comprising:

providing an audio command to a first speech recognition engine and at least one second speech recognition engine;

recognizing the audio command within the first speech recognition engine to generate at least one first recognized audio command, wherein the at least one first recognized audio command has a corresponding first confidence value;

recognizing the audio command within the at least one second speech recognition engine, independent of recognizing the audio command by the first speech recognition engine, to generate at least one second recognized audio command, wherein the at least one second recognized audio command has a corresponding second confidence value;

selecting at least one recognized audio command having a recognized audio command confidence value from the at least one first recognized audio command and the at least one second recognized audio command based on the at least one first confidence value and the at least one second confidence value

inserting the at least one recognized audio command within a form; and

accessing an external content server in response to the at least one recognized audio command to retrieve encoded information therefrom.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for multi-level distributed speech recognition comprising:

providing an audio command to a terminal speech recognition engine and at least one network speech recognition engine;

recognizing the audio command within the terminal speech recognition engine to generate at least one terminal recognized audio command, wherein the at least one terminal recognized audio command has a corresponding terminal confidence value;

recognizing the audio command within the at least one network speech recognition engine to generate at least one network recognized audio command, wherein the at least one network recognized audio command has a corresponding network confidence value; and

selecting at least one recognized audio command having a recognized audio command confidence value from the at least one terminal recognized audio command and the at least one network recognized audio command;

inserting the at least one recognized audio command within a form; and

accessing an external content server in response to the at least one recognized audio command to retrieve encoded information therefrom.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for multi-level distributed speech recognition comprising:

a first speech recognition means, operably coupled to an audio subsystem, for receiving an audio command and generating at least one first recognized audio command, wherein the at least one first recognized audio command has a first confidence value;

a second speech recognition means, operably coupled to the audio subsystem, for receiving the audio command and generating, independent of the first speech recognition means, at least one second recognized audio command, wherein each of the at least one second recognized audio command has a second confidence value; and

a means, operably coupled to the first speech recognition means and the second speech
recognition means, for receiving the at least one first recognized audio command
and the at least one second recognized audio command;

a dialog manager operably coupled to the first speech recognition means and the second
speech recognition means and operably coupleable to an external content server;
and

the dialog manager determines a dialog manager audio command from the at least one
recognized command confidence levels, inserting the dialog manager audio
command within a form and wherein such that the dialog manager access the
external content server in response to the dialog manager audio command to
retrieve encoded information therefrom.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for multi-level distributed speech recognition
comprising:

a terminal speech recognition engine operably coupled to a microphone and coupled to
receive an audio command and generate at least one terminal recognized audio
command, wherein the at least one terminal recognized audio command has a
corresponding terminal confidence value;

at least one network speech recognition engine operably coupled to the microphone and
coupled to receive the audio command and generate at least one network
recognized audio command, independent of the terminal speech recognition
engine, wherein the at least one network recognized audio command has a
corresponding network confidence value;

a comparator operably coupled to the terminal speech recognition engine operably
coupled to receive the at least one terminal recognized audio command and
further operably coupled to the at least one network speech recognition engine
operably coupled to receive the at least one network recognized audio command;
and

a dialog manager operably coupled to the comparator, wherein the comparator selects at
least one recognized audio command having a recognized confidence value from

the at least one terminal recognized audio command and the at least one network
recognized audio command based on the at least one terminal confidence value
and the at least one network confidence value, wherein the selected at least one
recognized audio command is provided to the dialog manager;

a dialog manager audio command determined by the dialog manager from the at least one
recognized audio commands based on the at least one recognized audio command
confidence levels such that the dialog manager inserts the dialog manager
command within a form-executes an operation in response to the dialog manager
audio command; and

the dialog manager being operably coupleable to an external content server such that the
operation executed by the dialog manager includes accessing the external content
server to retrieve encoded information therefrom.